

Various

Messthetics #101 /Messthetics #102 (www. hyped 2 death. com)

Independent is such an overused term; as is underground.

Track 16 on the unmatched Messthetics # 102 - the second of two collections of DiY and (very) indie post-punk from London '78-'81 - features Auntie Pus. Expelled from Kings College, Wimbledon, he failed to win the 1977 Melody Maker folk contest because the judges were laughing too hard. Mostly noted for his larcenous bent, his song 'Marmalade Freak' out Syd-Barretts Syd Barrett.

Track 18, 'Turn The Clock Back' by Basingstoke's monochromatic Walking Floors, was an account of singer Malcolm's life in the civil service - it appeared on the 1981 We Couldn't Agree On A Title comp that attained considerable Peel play. Drummer Mike went on to write a Captain Beefheart biography.

Track 2 is 'Sing Song' from the much sought-after Cups & Saucers EP by minimalist punky art students Tea Set -the band attended the same Watford art college as Wire, dressed up as members of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and spray-painted 'Welcome Home Tea Set' on a bridge just outside Watford.

Track 21, 'Don't Say Yes' by Dad - a bunch of 12 and 13-year-old Sixties garage-loving freaks - was originally released, cassette only, in 1980.

Flip to Messthetics # 101, and the wonders keep coming. In particular, there's the abrasion of bands from the Hornsey/North London DIY scene - the circular jazz-punk of Take It ('Armchairs') who featured a future member of Primal Scream; the Mark P-championed The Door And The Window, whose cover of 'Part Time Punks' is even more rudimentary than the TVPs' version; the crushworthy keyboard-led 12 Cubic Feet, whose female singer Fred once moonlighted at the same screenprinters as The Legend!; Exhibit A, DiY entrepreneur and publisher Paul Platypus' previous band as a cheerily grizzled 16-year-old. The Acid Drops were working class kids from Bromley's 'suburban housing estates', The Homosexuals liked to drench their sound in acts of mixing console desk violence, The Funboy Five featured a former Vice Cream and Anal Surgeon (and Sounds cassette critic)...

It's rare that I agree with Byron Coley, but sure. This really is some of the greatest music that never was. **Everett True**

